

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract, as follows:

--Provided is an ~~An~~ apparatus and method for generating an initial puncturing matrix from which a first sub-code is produced in a communication system ~~is provided~~. The apparatus includes a turbo encoder for generating information symbols and first and second parity symbols for the input of an information bit stream and a sub-code generator for generating sub-codes from the information symbols and the first and second parity symbols using puncturing matrices. The method comprises the steps of selecting as many information symbols as a number of columns in the initial puncturing matrix from the information symbols output from the turbo encoder, if a difference between the number N_s of selected symbols in the initial puncturing matrix and the number of the columns in the initial puncturing matrix is equal to or greater than a number of component encoders in the turbo encoder, and selecting as many first and second parity symbols as the difference.--